Encroachments on forests

*292. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government intend to regularise the pre-1980 encroachments on forests by revoking the provisions of Forest Conservation Act;

(b) whether any proposal to regularise such encroachments has been received from Kerala;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the areas if any, in the above category proposed to be regularised and converted into the Revenue land in Kerala;

(d) whether any proposal received from the Government of Kerala for compensatory afforestation is pending for approval; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) A decision to regularise eligible category of pre-1980 encroachments in accordance with the guidelines issued on 18th September, 1990 under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, already exists.

(b) and (c) In Kerala, Central Government has approved regularisation of eligible encroachments over 28,588.159 ha. of forest land and to assign land under the Kerala Land Assignment (Regularisation of Occupations of Forest Lands prior to 1.1.1977). Special Rules, 1993 subject to certain conditions on 31.1.1995 in five districts namely, Idukki, Pathanamthitta, Thrissur, Ernakulum and Kollam.

(d) No proposal for compensatory afforestation is pending with the Central Government for approval.

(e) Does not arise.

Retrenchment in SAIL

*293. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:
SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that SAIL has decided to cut 10,000 jobs;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether there is no scope for diversification or expansion of SAIL to absorb the surplus staff?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) and (b) Based on a study, the size of Steel Auhority of India Limited's manpower was found to be in excess of its requirement which affected its competitiveness and hence profitability. Accordingly, SAIL drew up a programme in the year 2000 for a phased reduction in its manpower. During 2003-2004, 10,000 employees are sought to be reduced through a Voluntary Retirement Scheme as well as superannuation and other separations.

(c) No such scope exists.

Allocation for Education Sector

†*294. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that an amount of Rs. 43,825 crores has been allotted to education sector during Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if not, the exact amount thereof;

(c) the amount-wise allocation for development and extension of primary education, secondary education, higher education and commercial education out of said amount; and

(d) the actual amount spent in each of the above sectors during the past years of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Yes, Sir .

(b) does not arise

(c) There is no sector known as 'commercial education'. Sector-wise allocation for Elementary Education, Secondary Education, Higher

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.